PRESS RELEASE

USA and Canada Teams Impress Once Again at the 2023 International Linguistics Olympiad in Bansko, Bulgaria in 21-29 July

Two USA teams and two Canadian teams brought back huge success at the 20th International Linguistics Olympiad, held from July 21 to July 29 in Bansko, Bulgaria. The teams took home two team medals, two honorable mentions, and eight individual medals, including an individual gold medal for Kunaal Chandrashekar of Ontario.

Representing the United States in two teams from a diversity of US states (from left to right) were Mritika Senthil of South Carolina, Benjamin Yang of Tennessee, Maya Schmidt of New Mexico, Jingyuan(Jamie) Li of Massachusetts, Darren Su of Idaho, Grant Wang of New York,
Among participants Canada of Jamie Perry trophies Both (bronze).

Chandrashekar and medals the Canadian Benjamin and (bronze), American Pothapragada Arul medalists Kolla Bansko’s Team Contests, The Among hypotheses. decipher languages the their contestants Problem-solving the contest Contest, Teams team Guazacapán Plains Marind, and In Exam the This contest Contest consists two is The The secondary students. twelve and alumni coaches. volunteer Tennessee program Daniel Lovsted, Anglo-Canadian Tom and Lori Aleka Levin To the practice the contest Round, the competition. A Winner of NACLO’s Round, competition. a a the competition. throughout the 1,500 over the American this competition, Linguistics OLCLO. This year, the Individual Contest featured the following languages: Guazacapán Xinka, Apurinã, Coastal Marind, Plains Cree, and Supyrie. In the Team Contest, team members collaborate to solve one particularly challenging problem. Teams were given four hours to match the words from a Murrinh-patha dictionary and phrases with their English equivalents. Problem-solving at the IOL stresses the ability of contestants to decipher the mechanisms of languages by using logic and reasoning to explore a wide range of hypotheses.

Among the 74 competitors recognized for their performances on the Individual and Team Contests, the United States and Canada Anglophone teams took home 10 medals. The awards were ceremonially announced at Bansko’s Nikola Vaptzarov Community Center. American individual medalists included Deeraj Pothapragada (silver), Arul Kolla (bronze), Maya Schmidt (bronze), Benjamin Yang (bronze), and Darren Su (bronze). Canadian recipients of the individual medals were Kunaal Chandrashekar (gold), Sukrith Velmineti (silver), and Perry Dai (bronze). Both the USA Red and Canada Anglophone teams received silver trophies in the Team Contest. In addition, Jamie Li of the United States and Victoria Li of Canada were among 29 individual participants to receive honorable mention certificates.
In addition to the competition, IOL also provided several cultural activities. The USA and Canada teams attended Friendship Days from July 21-22 with competitors from around the world. They hiked to the Bezbog Hut and visited one of the most beautiful alpine lakes in the Pirin Mountains. On the 22nd, the teams also enjoyed several games provided by the IOL Committee. In between the Individual and Team Contests, the teams visited the Rila Monastery and enjoyed the town of Bansko. Overall, all the participants had a great time at the IOL competition!

These accomplishments would not have been possible without our sponsors—the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL), the US National Science Foundation (NSF), Middle Tennessee State University, Carnegie Mellon University, and Yale University as well as the constant support and encouragement from the Linguistic Society of America and individual donors. NACLO also cherishes the memory and contributions of Dr. Dragomir Radev, who was a driving force behind the development of this organization since its founding in 2006.

Registration for the 2024 NACLO Open Round will begin in September 2023; qualifying competitors will have the opportunity to attend the 21st IOL in Brasilia, Brazil.

More Information

NACLO - http://www.nacloweb.org/ - practice problems, contest rules, and registration details (We are transitioning to naclo.org so please be aware some parts of either site will not be available.)
OLCLO - https://olclo.org/ - practice problems and registration details
IOL - http://www.ioling.org/ - all past IOL problems and results

Contact

Lori Levin  - lsl@cs.cmu.edu
Daniel Lovsted  - daniel.lovsted@gmail.com
Andrés Pablo Salanova  - kaitire@uottawa.ca
Jane Li  - janelisyu@gmail.com